

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 01526 292115Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PM-05
NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 PA-01 USIA-06 /071 W
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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6806
INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 01526

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, MX, CA, US
SUBJECT: GOC REACTION TO A "NORTH AMERICAN SUMMIT"

REF: MEXICO 4167

1. EMBOFF DISCUSSED GIST OF REFTEL WITH DIRECTORS
(NEW AND DEPARTING) OF LATIN AMERICAN DIV, MIN EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS (EXTAFF). THEY CONFIRMED THAT IDEA OF
TRIPARTITE "SUMMIT" WAS LARGELY CREATION OF MEXICAN
AMBASSADOR BARRIOS GOMEZ.

2. THEY EXPLAINED THAT CONCEPT APPARENTLY FIRST AROSE
WHEN BARRIOS GOMEZ PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS TO PM
TRUDEAU. TRUDEAU SPEAKS FAIR SPANISH ("COCKTAIL
SPANISH" AS ONE DESCRIBED IT) AND CONDUCTED THE
CEREMONIAL CHAT IN THAT LANGUAGE. THIS, THEY SAID,
COULD HAVE GIVEN BARRIOS GOMEZ AT LEAST THIN AND
PROBABLY UNINTENTIONAL SUPPORT FOR FLOGGING THE IDEA.

3. AFTER HEARING OF SUGGESTION, EXTAFF CHECKED WITH
IVAN HEAD, TRUDEAU'S THEN FOREIGN POLICY ADVISOR. HEAD
ADVISED EXTAFF THAT IT MUST HAVE BEEN RESULT OF MIS-
UNDERSTANDING AND WAS NOT A GOOD IDEA, IN ANY CASE.
THIS CONFORMED WITH EXTAFF VIEW.

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4. EXTAFF OFFICIALS HAVE CONSISTENTLY DISCOURAGED
MEXICAN EMBASSY HERE ON PERIODIC OCCASIONS WHEN TOPIC
HAS BEEN RAISED. EXTAFF LATIN AMERICAN DIV FEELS THAT
SUMMIT WOULD ACCOMPLISH LITTLE SUBSTANTIVELY IN VIEW
OF DIFFERENT NATURE OF BILATERAL PROBLEMS AND, AT BEST,
WOULD SIMPLY BECOME SERIES OF BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS.

OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT EXTAFF VIEW IS GOC VIEW.

5. COMMENT: EXTAFF OFFICIALS NOTED THAT BARRIOS GOMEZ IS FORMER MEDIA TYPE AND IS CAPTIVATED BY MEDIA POTENTIAL OF THIS ITEM. THEY THEREFORE EXPECT THAT HE MAY TRY TO KEEP THE IDEA ALIVE. IN GOC CIRCLES, HOWEVER, IT HAS LITTLE APPEAL AND PRESUMABLY WILL GET NOWHERE. PLACKE

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Message Attributes

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